

2012 CLIFF LEDE SONGBOOK CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

Established in 2002, Cliff Lede Vineyards encompasses sixty acres in the famed Stags Leap District. Owner Cliff Lede, Vineyard Architect David Abreu, and Winemaker Chris Tynan have come together to form an unrivaled team, making the most of this remarkable property.

Inspired by the friendship between Cliff Lede and David Abreu, Songbook is our interpretation of two celebrated vineyards.

Vintage

The 2012 vintage was a glorious year for Napa Valley. A frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by steady spring weather during flowering, allowing for even fruit set. Summer conditions were moderate, with warm days, cool nights, and minimal heat spikes, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. The wines are showing exceptional balance with concentrated, ripe fruit complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet intense, structure. Optimal ripeness was achieved by virtue of an early autumn of consistently warm days.

Vineyards

2012 Songbook was sourced from two of acclaimed viticulturist David Abreu's personally-farmed properties: Thorevilos Vineyard, situated between the St. Helena and Howell Mountain AVAs, and Madrona Ranch, nestled in the foothills of the Mayacamas mountain range. These vineyards produce grapes of exceptional character resulting from proprietary clones, extremely low yields, and meticulous farming. The result is a winemaker's dream.

Winemaking

In the cool darkness of night, grapes were hand-picked into twenty-five pound bins to minimize crushing. By early morning, the grapes were subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered sorting process, which includes our cutting edge optical sorter and a slow, individual berry hand sort. The fruit was gently gravity-delivered to small tanks and wooden *cuvés* by our unique crane system which kept the berries intact. Cold soaks lasted from five to eight days, and fermentations were managed through a combination of pump overs and *délestage*. Extended maceration of up to six weeks ensured exceptional extraction and fine-tuning of tannin profiles. This wine underwent eighteen months of *élevage* in French oak barrels, 90% of which were new.

Tasting Notes

Alluring perfume with effusive, ethereal aromas of violets and crushed rose petal segue into exotic boysenberry, huckleberry, and blood orange fruits. Long, elegant, and seamless, the palate is supported structurally by beautiful, powdery tannins from the tufa soil in which the terraced Cabernet vines of the Thorevilos Vineyard reside.

Analysis

Composition: 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc
Alcohol: 15.4%
Harvested: September 30 – October 18, 2012
Bottled: July 2014
Release: February 2016
Production: 382 cases